**1.** A method comprising:

maintaining at a protocol-data-unit excisor a first queue of protocol data units en route to a first congestible device;

receiving at said protocol-data-unit excisor a flow control signal that indicates whether said first congestible device is ready to receive one or more of said protocol data units from said first queue; and

selectively dropping, at said protocol-data-unit excisor, one or more of said protocol data units based on a first metric of said first queue.

**2.** The method of claim 1 wherein said protocol-data-unit excisor decides whether to drop a protocol data unit based on Random Early Detection.

**3.** The method of claim 1 wherein said indication is conveyed using back-pressure flow control.

**4.** The method of claim 1 wherein said indication is conveyed using the Pause frame procedure of IEEE 802.3.

**5.** The method of claim 1 further comprising:

maintaining at said protocol-data-unit excisor a second queue of protocol data units en route to a second congestible device;

receiving at said protocol-data-unit excisor a flow control signal that indicates whether said second congestible device is ready to receive one or more of said protocol data units from said second queue; and

selectively dropping, at said protocol-data-unit excisor, one or more of said protocol data units based on a second metric of said second queue.

**6.** A protocol-data-unit excisor comprising:

a first queue for storing one or more protocol data units en route to a first congestible device;

a first receiver for receiving a flow control signal that indicates whether said first congestible device is ready to receive one or more of said protocol data units from said first queue; and

a processor for selectively dropping one or more of said protocol data units based on a metric of said first queue.

**7.** The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 6 wherein said indication is conveyed using back-pressure flow control.

**8.** The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 6 wherein said indication is conveyed using the Pause frame procedure of IEEE 802.3.

**9.** The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 6 wherein said protocol-data-unit excisor decides whether to drop a protocol data unit based on Random Early Detection.

**10.** The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 6 further comprising:

a second queue for storing one or more protocol data units en route to a second congestible device; and

a second receiver for receiving a flow control signal that indicates whether said second congestible device is ready to receive one or more of said protocol data units from said second queue;

wherein said processor is also for selectively dropping one or more of said protocol data units based on a metric of said second queue.